

BRIGHTLINGSEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
-----Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health  
for 1939.  
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CHAIRMAN: Cr. H. C. Orton, J.P.  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Cr. I. C. Osborn.

## MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:-

CHAIRMAN: Cr. I. C. Osborn

Cr. H. C. Orton, J.P.                      Cr. H. Warren  
Cr. H. G. Polley, C.C.                      Cr. A. J. Aldridge

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BRIGHTLINGSEA  
URBAN DISTRICT:-

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH: J. Ramsbottam, M.B.,  
Ch.B., D.P.H., who is also Assistant County  
Medical Officer, and Medical Officer of Health  
to the Tendring Rural D. Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR: (Whole-time Officer):-  
J. C. Hicks, M.S.I.A., who acts also as Surveyor,  
Meat and Food Inspector and Officer under the  
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

JUNIOR CLERK TO THE SURVEYOR: H. R. Woolvett

WATERWORKS MANAGER: I.S. Priest (Whole-time Officer).

Town Hall,  
BRIGHTLINGSEA.  
December, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the BRIGHTLINGSEA  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for  
1939. Owing to the War, the Ministry of Health has decided  
to curtail the contents of the report to a minimum.

I would draw your attention to one outstanding  
feature during the year, and that is the infantile death-rate  
is NIL.

Arrangements have been made to preserve all records,  
in order that, at the end of the war, a comprehensive report,  
dealing with the whole period of hostilities, can be made.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

J. RAMSBOTTOM.

Medical Officer of Health.

## SECTION A.

### General Statistics.

Area (exclusive of Water)	2,873 acres.
Population (1931 Census)	4,145
Population (R.G. Estimate)	4,435
Number of inhabited houses	1,600
Rateable Value	£ 20,350
Sum represented by a penny Rate.....	£78 - 5 - 1.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics.

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Live Births -Legitimate	35	18	17
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total live Births	36	18	18

Still births- legitimate	4	1	3
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BIRTH RATE 8.48

	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Deaths	73	49	24

DEATH RATE 16.46

INFANTILE DEATH RATE - NIL

The crude death rate of 16.46, multiplied by the comparability factor of 0.66, gives a corrected local death rate of 10.86.

Deaths of Women in consequence of Child Birth- NIL

There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years), Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever.

### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS, CANCER, ETC. per 1,000.

Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	Death rate	.45
Cancer	8	" "	1.80
Influenza	1	" "	.23
Infectious Disease	NIL		NIL

### AGES AT TIME OF DEATH.

Under 1 yr: 1-25: 25-35: 35-45: 45-55; 55-65: 65-75: Over 75: TOTAL.

NIL	NIL	1	1	4	11	15	41	73
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This figure gives an average age at Death of approximately 74.8 years.

## SECTION B.

### Laboratory Facilities.

County Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria St.,  
London, E.C.4.

### Specimens Examined:

Diphtheria	17
Sputa	15
Ringworm	1
Water	2

35

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES, NURSING IN THE HOME, AND HOSPITALS.

Hostilities has made little appreciable change.

### CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The minor ailment clinic facilities under the County Authority were quadrupled in consequence of the evacuation of School-children to this area.

From 7th. October, 1939, a cleansing station was established in Silcott Street. This continued until 18th. November, when the necessity for it ceased.

Apart from Pediculosis and Impetigo, there was a remarkable freedom from infectious disease or serious ill health.

### SECTION C.

#### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area;

#### including Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

##### WATER SUPPLY

The bacteriological and chemical examinations show the public supply maintains its high standard of purity.

##### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Extension of Sewer, Richard Avenue:	286 lin. Yds	9" Sewer.
" " " " " :	30 " "	6" " "
" " " Seaview Road :	71 " "	9" " "

##### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The present arrangements of Scavenging by direct labour is working satisfactorily. Salvage is being worked in conjunction with the collection system.

##### SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

	NO.	NO. OF INSPECTIONS.	
Houses	21	55 (including revisits)	
Other premises	4	6	" "
Bairies & Milkshops	14	42	" "
Cowsheds	9	27	" "
Bakehouses	6	24	" "
Slaughterhouses	4	40	" "
Houses disinfected		4	
Complaints received and dealt with		9	
Informal notices served		6	

##### STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED

Housing Act	NIL
Public Health Acts	4
Informal Notices P.H. Meat Regulations	NIL

##### DESTRUCTION OF RATS.

The Council, assisted the owners in the destruction of rats during Rat Week, and obtained the services of a part-time Ratcatcher during a period of six months, to deal with the Council's Refuse Tip.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### (a) Milk Supply.

Periodical visits were made and the premises found satisfactory. One dealer licensed in Pasteurised Milk (Special Designations Order 1923)

### (b) Meat.

40 visits were made to slaughterhouses during the time of slaughter. Generally, the quality of meat was very good.

### (c) Other Foods.

Nothing of an unusual character came to my notice during the year.

### (d) Bakehouses.

Visits were made periodically to ensure cleanliness.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Notices.</u>
Factories	6	NIL
Workshops	8	"
Workplaces	2	"
	<u>16</u>	

No defects were found.

## SECTION D.

During 1939, three houses have been erected by private enterprise. In spite of the fact that Brightlingsea is a seaside town, the loss of resident population at the outbreak of war has been more than counter balanced by the evacuees from the London area, and the migration of workers to the boat building yards in the town.

No demolition orders were made during 1939, and four notices were served under the Public Health Acts and in each case the defects were remedied by the owners.

## SECTION E.

### Inspection of Food.

Regarding Milk supply, Meat, Bakehouses etc, see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

### Shellfish (Mulluxan).

During 1939, 3,407,062 oysters were marketed from Brightlingsea after cleansing. This compares with 4,361,107 in 1938.

## SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other diseases.

During 1939, one case of Scarlet Fever and one case of Diphtheria were notified. Both cases were sporadic in character.



Tuberculosis.

During 1939, two cases were added to the register.

(1) Male age 72 years: Respiratory Tuberculosis.

(1) Female age 10 years: Tuberculous Adenitis.

Two deaths occurred, both males and both Respiratory Tuberculosis: ages 45 and 60.

The number of patients on the register at the end of 1939 was:-

Pulmonary:	Males	14;	Females	12	)	
Non-Pulmonary:	"	11;	"	13	)	50

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